interested that trespassers would be dealt with in an appropriate manner; as indeed they were in 1955, as we shall see.

This northern frontier follows very closely the territorial limits of the bedouin tribes, who are based on the Aden Protectorate, rather I should say, it follows the limits of their home grazing areas, for they are great travellers and wander far up into Saudi Arabia when scarcity of grazing forces them to take their herds of camels farther and farther afield; just as the Saudi Arabian tribes came south into the Protectorate when their own grazing has suffered from lack of rain. One often hears a lot of nonsense about being as free as the Arab of the desert. The Arab of the desert is no more free than the city worker who has to catch the 7.30 a.m., or whatever train it may be, to London, on five days of the week. The Arab must go where God has willed the rain to fall and the grass and other herbage to grow, otherwise he and his flock will die; he is not free to wander at will, he is bound, inexorably bound to follow the rain.

Another advantage of this line is that it follows generally, but not exactly, the southern limits of the great sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali, dunes which are clearly defined and which rise in places to several hundred feet, almost one could say a natural frontier. Lastly, it is the limit of our effective control and although it is not ideal, it is practical and definite and not subject to yet another conference.

So much for the limits of the Protectorate, and now I must correct a misapprehension which seems to be fairly general with regard to its size. Many people in this country are under the impression that the Aden Protectorate is a small area approximating in size to that of one of the larger English counties; in fact, of course, it is nearly twenty-five per cent. larger than the whole of the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland. In the west it is predominantly hilly, once the coastal plain is crossed, and the average height of the territory is some 3,500 ft., that is very nearly as high as Snowdon. The mountain ranges run east and west and are separated by plains and plateaus, each successive range being higher than the last until, on the line of Yafa and the Audhali country, the mountains reach a

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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as a result of such operations. To have inflicted the same punishment in the more remote areas of the Protectorate, with land forces, would certainly have resulted in casualties on both sides, and would have been a long and laborious operation. Justice in the wilder and less civilised areas of the world, where memories are short, must not only be seen to be done, but it must be swift. Air action fulfils both these requirements, and is at the same time the most humane method. It seldom leaves any lasting feeling of resentment and more often than not normal relations have been resumed with the offenders in a few months or even weeks.

Sometimes air action cannot solve the Internal Security problem quite so readily and this is when the recalcitrants have no permanent dwellings, but live in grass huts or caves or just under trees in close proximity to the frontier. When they have been tempted and have fallen and have committed some gross offence then action has to be taken by air against their flocks, the only property they have, and when this fails action is taken to deny to them their grazing areas. Sometimes even this does not produce the required result, which is to persuade them to make submission and live in peace with their neighbours. Then ground and air action is taken to round up the men or to destroy them if they resist; the normal procedure when dealing with dangerous armed criminals in any part of the world. This may take long to achieve when the frontier is near and supplies of foodstuffs and money and shelter and compensation for damage done are all readily available from outside the Protectorate. The main fault is not with these poor, foolish, misled creatures, but with those responsible for leading them astray. They are the people who most deserve punishment and not their unfortunate dupes; but the principals are far away and out of reach in a "friendly" country. The loyal and staunch tribesmen, our friends, know where the fault really lies. We may understand why the punishment cannot fall where the result would be immediately successful in stopping at once the bribery and corruption which is the root of the matter, but they who depend on us and are loyal to us and who suffer from the depredations of the disrupters of the

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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peace have not our understanding of the world-wide considerations which influence our policy. They cannot understand our reluctance to take action, and I confess that on occasions I have been just as mystified.

ADEN MN1 HADHRAMAUT MH2

N 262 ably meager. The basic foods are usually breads, dates and milk products, supplemented by vegetables and fruits in season and by varying amounts of meat and fish. Although breads are most frequently prepared from sorghum millet (durra), other forms of millet, as well as maize, wheat N [439] and barley are widely used. Rice is generally popular, and large amounts are im- 244 ported. Dates constitute one of the main 262 food items throughout this region; date palms flourish along some wadies, but the annual crop is inadequate. Numerous types of vegetables and fruits are available in the A agricultural areas.

N Sheep and goats are raised in both the 235 Colony and the Protectorate. Their milk is 262 used extensively, but only the pastoral tribes are apt to have a sufficient supply. Cow's milk is also consumed in the Colony and in some inland districts, particularly in Western Aden Protectorate, where the grazing conditions are suitable for cattle. Camel's milk is a staple food among certain Bedouin tribes. Ghee, or clarified butter, is employed in the wealthier families. The fat from the tail tissues of the local breed of sheep, which is an important substitute in the Colony and among the eastern tribes, A is almost unknown in Western Aden Pro- H tectorate. Sesame is cultivated in many 244 areas, and the oil constitutes another source 262 of fats. Meat is seldom consumed more than 511 once a week, except in the more prosperous 228 households. Fish are plentiful along the coast, and both fresh and dried fish are commonly used in the diet.

Housing

A Several different types of dwellings are 262 found in Aden Colony. In general, the 342 standards of housing are higher than in the neighboring territories. All variations are encountered between the multistoried stone houses of the wealthy Arabs, the modern style villas of the European and official communities, and the one- or two- A story structures of stone or mud brick in 342 which most of the people live. Regardless